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ABSTRACT

This Kids Count census brief is the first in a series to offer policymakers concise glimpses of Kansas' children and families. The brief's introduction notes significant changes in the child population during the past decade: approximately one-half of Kansas' child population is concentrated in five counties; the state's child population grew by 8 percent, but the relative proportion of children in the population remained stable; although many counties experienced a decline in the birth-to-age-5 population, many counties also experienced an increase in the oldest age group, 15-17; and the state's child population has seen an increase in the number of multi-racial children and rapid growth of the Hispanic population. The remaining sections of the brief detail each of the preceding findings, including state maps with all counties illustrating the data. The brief concludes with policy implications of the data in the areas of allocation of resources and social service delivery. (HTH)

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COUNTING KIDS

The Changing Face of Kansas Children

PS 030292

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1

2000 Census Brief

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Purpose

KANSAS ACTION FOR CHILDREN

kids count

3

Introduction

4

2000
Census Brief
4

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Population Distribution

Number of Kids in Kansas

Legend

< 1000 | 1000 - 10000 | 10000 - 20000 | 20000 - 50000 | > 100000

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Population Growth

7

4

Percent Change in Number of Kids 1990 - 2000

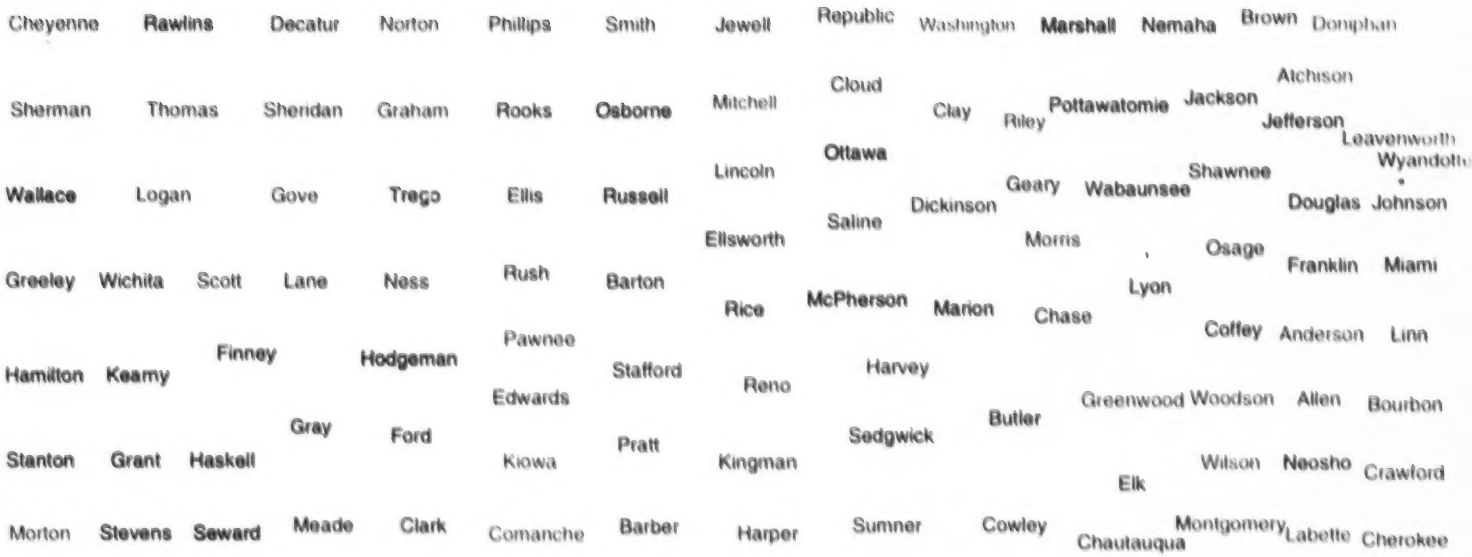
Legend

declined >10% declined <10% increased <10% increased 10-20% increased >20%

ASC Groups

9

9



Percent Change in Number of Kids Age 15-17 from 1990 to 2000

Legend

declined | increased <15% | increased 15-30% | increased 30-45% | increased >45%

11

11

Percent Minority Kids

Legend

<5% 5-10% 10-20% 20-30% >30%

13

13

Policy Implications

Allocation of Resources

Moreover, the adolescent population increased in all but five counties, underscoring the importance of out-of-school programs, and prevention and treatment services for older children. Young persons in this age group, and their families, often experience stresses not faced by younger children.

At the same time, even though the number of children ages 5 and younger decreased in many counties, the demand for more quality early childhood programs is increasing in communities throughout Kansas. Recent early brain development studies have made parents, advocates and policy-makers more aware of how critical it is to provide safe and stimulating environments, as well as quality health and social services, to young children. Thus, even counties with fewer children face increasing demands for resources.

Social Service Delivery

The same factors that require greater resources in counties with decreasing child populations put greater strains on health and social service delivery systems. This is especially true in rural counties, where it may be difficult to find enough adults who have the skills to meet children's needs.

15
15

OUR WORK

Kansas Action for Children is an independent, nonpartisan, citizen-based corporation founded in 1979. We do not enter into contracts with, nor receive funding from, government agencies. We work on behalf of all children to ensure that their physical and emotional needs are met, and that they become healthy and contributing adults.

- We *paint the picture* of Kansas children by gathering and publicizing data on child well-being through the *Kansas Children's Report Card*, the *Kansas KIDS COUNT Data Book* and special reports.
- We *advance alternatives* by developing state policy that is child, youth and family friendly. Over the years, programs related to early childhood development, teen pregnancy, preventive health care, citizen's review boards, services to children in troubled families and the use of funds from the legal settlement with tobacco companies have stemmed from our work.
- We *build the base* of citizen advocacy for children and youth by working with citizens and organizations across the state. We believe that hundreds of citizens speaking out for children can help create communities that support families and children.

OUR MISSION

Kansas Action for Children advocates for policies and programs that ensure and improve the physical, emotional and educational well-being of all Kansas children and youth. KAC is an independent and nonpartisan voice on their behalf.

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17

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